Bible Read & the Spirit
Prayed

OUR NEED OF THE SPIRIT.

Mt.3:14 "I have need to be baptised of thee."

INTRO. John had just been contrasting his baptism of water with that of Jesus which was "with the Holy Ghost and with fire."

Then jesus himself came to john and asked to be baptised. Joh's reply.

Baptism by water not enough-

This baptism of the Holy Spirit realized in a most dramatic way on the day of Pentacost.

Everr after the early Xns observed this day. Nor should we forget, for John's words are as true today as when he uttered them "For I have need to be baptised of thee."

John a representative man and he stood for nothing but that needed the baptism of the Holy Spirit.

I. John represented the Jewish nation.

A. The Jews had forgotten their national origin, and mission.

God's covenant with Jacob

Israel should know God as no other people

Israel was to make God known to all the world

It istoo light a thing that thou should est be my servant to raise up tribes of Jacob and to restore the preserved of Israel. I will also give thee for a light to the Gentiles that thou mayest be my salvation unto the end of the earth.

Isa.49:6

But the Jews had fallen away from all this.

Intensely nationalistic

Vindictive and full of hatred for other nations

Provincial and narrow

B. Israel indeed needeet o be baptised with the Spirit of Jesus!

B& O"r Xn nations of today also need to be baptised with the Spirit of Jesus.

The Spirit of Locarno, a touch of the Spirit of Jes

1928- Kellogg Peace Pact.

But there have been set-backs to treaty of Locarno, and will be many more. Great need of many more baptisms of the Spirit of Jesus upon the nations of the world.

Our own national need is a baptism of the Spirit of Jesus.

We are in danger of forgetting our mission.

Our founders had in mind to give liberty to the world.

But many are trying to make our Americanism to mean just the opposite from its original purpos

The disappointment of other nations in the U.S.

What has become of our melting pot?

If the real soulof America could speak, it woud say in the words of John, "We have need to be baptised of thee."

II. Again, John the Baptist stood for the Church.

John's Church.

Hard and formal. Mechanical keepong of rules.

The letter prevailed and the spirit dead.

No message to the poor and outcast.

What God had planned to become a universal religio had grown to be provincial and sectarian and self-centered and exclusive.

Judaism surely needed to be baptised with the Spiri of Jesus."

The Church of today, Institutional Xty, also needs the baptism of the Spirit and of fire."

It is true that the Church has been much worse than it is today.

In Victorian period, early in 1800s.

Dumb, selfish and self-centered, indolent, doing nothing to relieve the terrible social condition in the very midst of which it did its work.

Thencame the baptism of the Sprit of Jesus.

Kingsley and Maurice began to prophecy. Shaftesbury, Wilberforce and Howard touched the conscience of England.

Then came a man of God, William Booth, and a woman of God, Catherine Booth who went directly to the lost with Christ's message, "I am come to seek and to save that which is lost."

Church would have nothing to do with them.

But they went on without the Church.

Tennyson, to Booth, one day, ""What is the news today?" "I have nothingfrenscher than this, that Jsus Christ died to save sinners."

Tennyson: "Well, that is old news, new news and good

news."

Towards the end of his life, when old and infirm, General Booth was offered a cup of tea one day. But he handed it back, saying,"It is not hot. Tea is no good unl unless it is hot." "And a meeting is no good unless it is hot. You must have hot tea if it is to be good tea and you must have a meeting hot of it is to be a good meeting."

Booth put his finger on our real trouble. Our ecclesiasticism is not hot. It does not glow. It needs to be baptized with the Spirit of Jesus and with fire.

The Church no longer the moulding influence it once wa was in the affairs of men.

Many churchs still concerned with matters that the modern world has long since outgrown. Its own petty details of organization and belief occupy the fuul attention of the Church to the neglect of the larger and more vital needs of mankind.

In every age the Church is in danger of losing its soul and always stands in need of being baptised with the Spirit of Jesus.

III. John also stands as a man, as an individual personality. And as such has need to be baptised with the Spirit of Jesus."

A. Men who have lost their self-control and their self respect have need to be baptised withthe Siprit of Jesus.

"Lord Jesus, I long to be perfectly whole;
I want thee forever to live in my soul;
Break down every idol, cast out every foe;
Now wash me and I shall be whiter than snow."

Welsh revival hymn.

But not for such alone that there is need of baptism. John the Baptist did not belong to this class.

He had renounced sin and had responed to the call of God Yet, John said,"I have need to be baptised of thee."

And who of us today is so holy, so good, so obedient to the call of God, so brave and so true who does not need to say, "I have need to be baptised of thee?"

The most educated and cultured, the most respected person in the world has for his greatedt need to be baptised with the Spirit of Jesus.

"one thing thou lackest"

The fact is that our very respectability, our distaste of the vulgar, our sense of superiority over others, tend t to breed in us conceit, self-righteousness and satisfaction.

which, according to Jesus Himself, is the deadliest of all sins.

These very ones who ought to be the leaders, who are best equipped to be such fail because they lack the one necessary thing= the baptism of the Spirit of Jesus. They need the fire that will burn their so-called respectability to ashes, they need the Spirit that will burn their superiority to service for the salvation of men.

The tragedy of it all- these multitudes of men and women today, having intelligence, refinement, capacity and personal powers of devotion, living morally insignificant lives and doing nothing to uplift their less-fortunate fellows! And all for the lack of baptism by the Spirit of Jesus! The fire of God which alone can kindle the soul!

Conclusion. The baptism of the Spirit not for the favored few, but for every man who desires it and who meets the conditions for receiveing it.

It came to the disciples who loved Jesus and followed him and who believed in his promise of the Spirit.

Do you truly and whole-heartedly love Christ?

Does Jesus personify that Truth which for your soul is the supreme ambition and fulfilment of personality?

If so, then you are capable of that degree of of expectant, co-operating waiting, that openness of heart, soul and mind which makes possible the incoming of the Spirit of God, into the life of man.

Nothing obscure and magical about it.

On Whitsunday in Westminster Abbey, Dean Designate of Canterbury exclaimed, "I do believe that if for three days we tried to live in the Spirit of God, that is, until Wednesday from today, we should come to know by Thursday that there was no task we could not tackle in the might of God, because of His offering of His Holy Spirit to guide and to help us until the end."

Without the Spirit life is bound to be narrow, circumscribed, without scope, beauty, power, happiness.

"I have need to be baptised of thee." May this be the earnest prayer of each one of us and may God answer it to begin within us a deeper spiritual experience than we have ever known.